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*Administration of Jimmy Carter, 1980*

time, we've actually reduced the import of textile goods—a radical departure from previous trends.

Those are the kinds of things whose cumulative effect will have a beneficial impact on inflation. None of them will stand on its own, and they will all require some degree of commitment and sometimes sacrifice on the part of the American people. But I think that now there's a consciousness in this country about the threat of inflation which is not going to be forgotten any time in the near future, and I will capitalize on that realization. And I believe I'll have better luck in controlling inflation in the years ahead.

MR. POWELL. This will have to be the last question.

#### DECISIVE FACTORS IN ELECTION

Q. With the campaign going down to the last 2 weeks and the debate coming up near the end of it, if you could pick up one issue that you think the campaign will hinge on—your people have said that the pendulum has swung to your side and things are now moving in your direction. If you could pick one issue, one thing that the campaign would swing on, what would it be?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, that's obviously a hypothetical question that's not sound, because the people don't single out just one issue to the exclusion of everything else. I think it would be a combination of potential crisis in its broad range and scope on the one hand, and economic circumstances in the broadest definition of the word. And I don't want crisis to be narrowly defined as just military combat. Crisis is the ability of a President to deal with unanticipated circumstances in a sound, mature way, a responsible way. And economic circumstances is whether

the people think that I or Governor Reagan will do the best job to give them a stable economic future.

#### RALPH ABERNATHY'S ENDORSEMENT OF RONALD REAGAN

Q. Let me sneak one more, because Jody would certainly want it asked. Do you think that the Reverend Abernathy's endorsement of Governor Reagan yesterday will have a significant effect on the black vote? Are you concerned about the things that he said about your handling issues that concern the black voters?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, since we've heard the news, Jody and I and others have discussed it very thoroughly and I've decided not to withdraw from the race. [Laughter]

Thank you all. I enjoyed it.

Q. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The interview began at 3:28 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

#### Foreign Service Act of 1980

*Statement on Signing H.R. 6790 Into Law.  
October 17, 1980*

I am today approving H.R. 6790, the Foreign Service Act of 1980. This bill provides the first comprehensive revision of personnel legislation for the United States Foreign Service in 34 years. It is an important step in the reform, simplification, and improvement of personnel administration in the Government, a top priority of my administration.

Because of its special conditions of employment, including the requirement of availability for worldwide service, the Foreign Service was exempted from most of the provisions of the Civil Service Re-

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form Act of 1978. I recognized then, however, that the Foreign Service, operating under a 1946 act designed for a far different world, was also in need of reform, and that many of the civil service reforms, appropriately modified, would promote greater productivity and improve personnel management in the Foreign Service as well.

The Congress agreed, and we worked together to frame legislation. The Foreign Service Act of 1980 is the product of our nonpartisan collaboration.

While this bill was being drafted, events were occurring that brought home vividly to all of us the extraordinary demands placed on our Foreign Service personnel. They play an essential role in the formulation and conduct of United States foreign policy, and their service abroad often involves deprivation and danger. They are exposed to acts of terrorism and, in some places, to open hostility toward the United States and its representatives. We owe them our fullest support.

The new Foreign Service Act recognizes the professionalism and dedication required by today's Foreign Service. It sets high performance standards, provides incentive awards for outstanding service, and strengthens career development programs. It permits the President to promulgate a pay schedule that complies fully with the requirements of the Federal Pay Comparability Act. The Executive order I will sign shortly will achieve comparability between the Foreign Service and General Schedule pay systems.

When I signed the Civil Service Reform Act just 2 years ago, on October 13, 1978, I said that it would "bring efficiency and accountability and competence to the Federal Government that exceed what we have known in the past" and that it would put "incentive and reward back into the

Federal system." Our experience since that law went into effect indicates that it is bringing real improvement to the civil service—and that the American taxpayers are getting a better return on their tax dollar.

I take great pride in signing this bill today. It is a modern charter, well designed to meet the needs of the dedicated, able men and women of the Foreign Service in the decades ahead. I congratulate all Members of Congress and their staffs who devoted long hours and months to preparing it and who worked closely with my administration in bringing it successfully to enactment.

NOTE: As enacted, H.R. 6790 is Public Law 96-465, approved October 17.

## Import Relief for the Domestic Mushroom Industry

*Letter to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate Transmitting a Report. October 17, 1980*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

In accordance with section 203(b) (1) of the Trade Act of 1974, enclosed is a report to the Congress setting forth my decision to provide import relief on canned mushrooms in the form of increased tariffs.

JIMMY CARTER

IMPORT RELIEF ACTION

CANNED MUSHROOMS

As required under section 203(b) (2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (the Trade Act), I am transmitting this report to Congress setting forth the action I am taking with respect to canned mushrooms